

Remarks/Arguments

The Office Action mailed on April 13, 2011 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 9 remains canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-7 and 10 are now pending in this application.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections:

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner has stated that the claims are directed to abstract idea and merely recite mental activity. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the detection step is performed by a hardware processor. Accordingly, claim 1 is not directed to an abstract idea or to mere mental activity. Thus, claim 1 is drawn towards statutory subject matter. In addition, claims 2-7 and 10 are drawn towards statutory subject matter due at least to their dependencies from claim 1. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wang et al., "Image Disorientation Auto-Recovery" (hereinafter 'Wang').

Claim 1 of the present application recites:

Method for detecting the orientation of images in a set of captured images representing a similar scene, all the images in said set of captured images containing at least one similar object, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

choosing at least one reference image from the set of captured images, the reference image having an orientation that is known *a priori*,

wherein said choosing comprises selecting, for each target image in said set of captured images, a single reference image among a plurality of reference images whose orientations are known *a priori*, wherein said selected reference image is the reference image that has a minimum distance to said target image among the plurality reference images; and

detecting, by a hardware processor, orientation of said target image as a function of the orientation of said selected reference image.

The Applicants respectfully submit that although Wang discloses a method for detecting a possible disorientation of a target image by comparing its features with the features of reference images, Wang does not disclose selecting a single reference image from among a plurality of reference images for each target image. Rather than selecting a single reference image from a plurality of reference images, Wang employs all of the reference images for the entire image set. *See, e.g., Wang*, p. 14, para. 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is novel over Wang at least because Wang fails to disclose the selection of a single reference image from among a plurality of reference images, as recited in claim 1. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,744,537 to Chiba et al. (hereinafter 'Chiba').

Claims 2-8 and 10 depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 2-8 and 10 include the feature of selecting a single reference image from among a plurality of reference images for each target image. As stated above, Wang fails to disclose at least this feature. Furthermore, Wang does not render this feature obvious, as Wang fails to teach or provide any motivation for determining how any reference image can be selected from a plurality of reference images.

Chiba teaches an image reader system. Chiba further teaches measuring the distance between candidate characters and input characters, executing a distance sorting and recognizing a candidate character having the minimum distance as a final candidate for the inputted character. However, none of the cited reference taken singly or in combination teaches any selection of a reference image. In contrast, selecting a reference image in accordance with aspects of the present principles improves the robustness of the orientation detection method.

Wang focuses on the features used for comparing the target image with reference images. Wang does not in any way mention selecting one particular reference image for each of the target images. Moreover, Chiba fails to cure the deficiencies of Wang. For example, Chiba discloses a method for detecting the orientation based on character recognition, but the method is not based on the

selection of one reference image in a set of images representing a similar scene. When combining Chiba and Wang, one of ordinary skill in the art would simply obtain another way of comparing the images, by using distance measurement. However, the combination fails to teach a selection of a particular reference image from a plurality of reference images for a given target image prior to implementing the comparison.

The method as claimed by the Applicant contains a step of choosing and selecting one reference image for each target image; this is not disclosed or suggested by Wang or by Chiba.

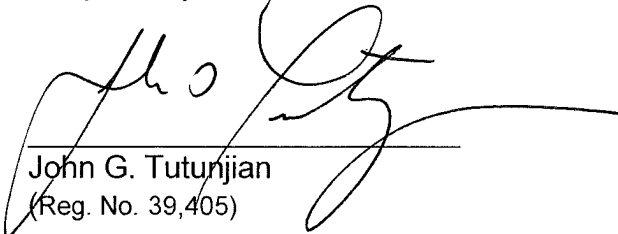
Therefore, Wang taken singly, or in combination with Chiba, fails to describe or suggest the method of claim 1. Thus, Applicants' claim 1 is not obvious and is patentable over the combination and the references of record. In addition, claims 2-7 and 10 are also patentable over the cited references due at least to their dependencies from claim 1. As such, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-7 and 10 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims set forth in the Office Action of April 13, 2011 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-7 and 10 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

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